

MEMORIAL

OF

ALEXANDRE VATTEMARE, A CITIZEN OF FRANCE,

RELATIVE TO

His plan of international literary and scientific exchanges.

FEBRUARY 9, 1848.

Referred to the Committee on the Library, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled :

The memorial of Alexandre Vattemare, a citizen of France,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

That after the lapse of eight years since, in his self-imposed mission, your memorialist had last the honor of addressing your honorable body, he has once more the gratification of finding himself on the soil of this great, free, and enlightened republic—a land for which his early partialities and strong regard have been proved in the unsparing exertion of his humble faculties; and his gratification is greatly heightened by the consideration that it is now in his power to announce to your honorable body the fulfilment of hopes then confidently indeed entertained, but which, at that period, had not been submitted to the test of time and experience. Those severe trials of human prospects and expectations have since been appealed to, and your memorialist rejoices in being able to say that they have not only fully justified his most sanguine anticipations, but far surpassed them all. The great and leading conception which originated and gave birth to the entire plan of international, literary, and scientific exchanges, has met, in every quarter of both hemispheres where it has yet been presented and explained, the cordial approval of the wisest and most influential minds which control public action and mould public opinion.

Nor has their approbation satisfied itself in the mere expressions of commendation, however full and emphatic. It has proceeded from words to substantial deeds, and, to an extent which none would, in the dawn of this enterprise, have anticipated, has carried the plan suggested by your memorialist into practical effect. As a convincing evidence of this, your memorialist has the high honor and gratification to state, that he returns to your shores richly charged with the offerings of the old world to the rising greatness of the new. This will better appear from what is now to be stated.

In a document printed in Paris in 1846, containing the details of the results of this international exchange for that year, it will be seen

that, in that time, France received from the United States 1,267 volumes, medals, maps, and other articles, literary and scientific; while America, in the same time, received from France 3,894 volumes of a similar general description; making a total of 4,726 objects interchanged between the two countries, in a comparatively early stage of the plan. At that time, your memorialist's invitation to embark in this enterprise had received a response in this country from the honorable Secretary of War, and the Supreme Court of the United States, as well as from the States of Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, Virginia, Indiana, and Michigan, and also from the cities of New York and Baltimore; several of which States not only contributed important literary and legislative documents to be transmitted for exchange, but also made liberal appropriations to provide for their shares of the expenses incurred by the federal agency.

But since that time, this fraternal intercourse between America and the early friend of her revolutionary days (France) has very largely increased. During the succeeding year (1847) I was the instrument of conveying to this country more than 12 tons of objects of literary and scientific exchange, of great value.

And as a yet more convincing proof how this brotherly feeling has spread itself on the other side of the Atlantic, I am happy to be able to say that I have now brought with me about 12,000 valuable books, 4,000 maps and charts, 200 medals, besides engravings, statuettes, &c., &c. Among these books are to be found some 4,000 ancient works on theology, (including many very precious early copies of the sacred Scriptures,) as well as on history, political economy, the physical sciences, &c., dating from 1475 down to the eighteenth century.

Besides this valuable body of ancient learning, the collection is enriched by copies of the greatest and most expensive national works (of more modern date) ever published by order of the French government: such as the magnificent work on Egypt, under the orders of Napoleon; the recent great work on the ruins of ancient Nineveh; another on ancient and modern Persia; also, what is termed the Oriental Collection, being a splendid edition of the most precious manuscripts in the royal library of Paris, in all the languages of the East, (accompanied by a French translation;) the collection of the *Journal des Savants*; the *Annales des Ponts et Chaussées*, (civil engineering,) 60 volumes; the *Annales des Mines*, 75 volumes; the *Bulletin de la Cours de Cassation*, 100 volumes; the *Bulletin des Lois*, about 300 volumes; the *Bulletin de la Société d'encouragement pour l'industrie nationale*, from 1800 to 1846, inclusive; *Mémoires de la Société d'Agriculture*, from 1800 to 1847, inclusive; about 2,000 volumes and documents relative to agriculture, commerce, and industry of France; the celebrated illustrated works, *Les Vases Etrusques de Hamilton*, *le Musée des Antiques*, *La Galerie de Florence*, *l'histoire naturelle des Oiseaux d'Afrique de Le Vaillant*, *La flore des Antilles*, de *Tusac*; the *Collection of the Classics*, published for the education of the Dauphin of France; the precious collection of the *Documents inédits de l'histoire de France*, (the 63 first volumes, 4to., with atlas; this work will be composed of more than 400 volumes;) *Essay sur la Construction navale des nations Extra-Europeens*, (collection of vessels and canoes constructed by all the Extra-European nations;) *La Statistique Monumentale de Paris*, a work illustrative of all the public buildings of that Metropolis, from the time of Julius Cæsar to the eighteenth century; with numbers of others of similar class.

Then there are also many important works relative to your own country.

Among the medals, many of which are the most exquisite that ever have been struck, is the entire collection (in bronze) of the historic medals of France, which may in fact be justly denominated the metallic history of that empire, extending from 1490 to 1847, inclusive. The latter, though not yet arrived, are secured by the official promise of the French government, contained in the following letter from his Excellency the Minister of Finance, which I had the honor of receiving but a few days before my departure for this country:

“PARIS, April 30, 1847.

“SIR: You have requested from me a collection of the medals relative to the history of France, to be presented, as objects of exchange, to the United States.

“The intention of the government is to offer this collection to the federal government, and it will *soon* be forwarded to the chargé d'affaires of France,* who, in presenting it, will not omit to mention the participation you had in relation to this affair.

“I cannot but express to you my thanks for your obliging offers on this occasion, as well as for all you have already done to facilitate exchanges of such an importance to both countries.

“Accept, sir, the assurance of my consideration.

“LAPLAGNE,

“Minister Secretary of Finances.”

All the above works have been presented as tokens of esteem, good will, and brotherly feelings, by his Majesty the King of the French; by the Chambers of Peers and Deputies; by the Ministers of Justice, War, Navy, Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce, Public Instruction, Finances, and Public Works; by the Common Council of the city of Paris, the Academy of Sciences; by the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences; by the Museum of Natural History, as well as by the most distinguished authors, artists, statesmen, mechanics, and private individuals of France—to the Congress; to the Departments of War, Navy, and Treasury; to the Patent Office; the Observatory; to the Supreme Court of the United States; and to the States of *Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky, and Texas*; also, to the United States Military Academy at West Point; to the cities of Boston, New York, Baltimore, and Philadelphia; to the Universities of Cambridge, Brunswick and Waterville, (Me.,) Burlington, (Vt.,) and to the *National Institute of the United States of America*—a magic title, which promises the development of results worthy of the age, and of your great nation, whose dawn was hailed with respect by Europe. Eminent men everywhere greeted with hope and enthusiasm an establishment which seemed to spring out of the urgent and imperative necessity of your new, soul-stirring, intellectual, and political empire, calculated to concentrate the lustre of your intellectual sovereignty in its aspect to the other nations of the world.

To this establishment, therefore, all the most important productions of science and the arts, of which single copies could be procured, were destined as presents to all the States of the confederation—offerings to the whole American nation, and to be placed in its national library and museum.

*Now Minister Plenipotentiary.

What was the universal joy diffused among all lovers of science in Europe, on first learning the fact that such an institution had been incorporated by Congress, may be judged from the many letters of congratulation from the most illustrious scholars of France which were addressed to the National Institute soon after its existence was announced.

The contributions of America to the long accumulating stores of European knowledge have also been received and acknowledged, on the other side of the Atlantic, with unaffected gratitude and pleasure, as new, rich, and valued accessions, derived from a source toward which the curiosity and interest of the more ancient continent had long been turned. Such mutual tokens of national regard; such mutual acknowledgments between the elder and the younger members of the great confraternity of science and of arts in both worlds, constitute one of those signs of the times, one of those multiplying omens of good, which hold out to the lovers of man, wherever he is found, hopes the most animating, after long centuries of estrangement and of darkness; and a consolation the most welcome, amid all the social and national calamity which seems the lot and inheritance of our common nature.

Your memorialist has always been impressed with the conviction that in this, the inevitable moral and political tendency of his enterprise, lay its first and its highest importance and value: an interchange of the treasures of literature, of works of the fine arts, of specimens of national inventive genius and artistical skill, as well as the mere products of boon nature's gifts to both worlds, cannot fail to promote between nations mutual respect and regard; to bring them better acquainted with each other's progress in all that adorns and gives prosperity to human life; besides enlarging those personal and scientific friendships which bind together, as by magic ties, all that is great and good.

Your own country, especially, so recently born into the family of nations; now just becoming known, as she is worthy of being known, to her sister nations of the old world; now just rising into that admiration and esteem, which a fuller acquaintance with her just claims cannot fail to secure—America may hope to derive the most substantial benefits from an intercourse such as this plan holds out to her. Europe has become rich by the accumulations of many centuries. Letters, arts, and the investigations of sciences, have conferred upon her treasures such as no land, comparatively so new as yours, can be expected to possess; but while she has these to offer, in rich profusion, to all the lovers of light in this new world, she has equivalents to expect and to receive in return, which will more than make the balance of benefit fully even.

If you have more lately begun to be, you have advanced with a rapidity of progress which leaves her gazing as at a prodigy; and the boundless physical resources on which the energy of your countrymen is everywhere employing itself, furnish you with natural treasures of the highest value, as well as new modes and forms of mechanical and scientific adaptation, which her own settled modes of existence could never have struck out.

By such a mutual exchange, while both will be incalculable gainers, neither can be injured; good, only good, and that without any concomitant evil, is the fair promise of a design which has, for all who engage in it, nothing but blessings to bestow.

The proof that the proposed system of exchanges has met with a favorable reception among the most enlightened portions of Europe and society, will be found in the written credentials addressed to your memorialist by many of the sovereigns and most celebrated statesmen, as well as the legislative and learned bodies, of Europe. Of these, your memorialist had the honor to submit many copies, appended to a former memorial addressed by him to your honorable body, in 1840.—(See House document No. 586, 26th Congress.)

On the present occasion, your memorialist will content himself with offering four or five extracts from the voluminous letters, official and otherwise, addressed to him since his last return to Europe, in relation to the proposed system of exchange. It will be perceived that these are confined to France alone; and the reason is, that it was in his native country alone that your memorialist was enabled, during his last visit, to labor in this great cause; but should it be the will of a protecting Providence that he be permitted again to cross the Atlantic, he proposes himself to visit all the different States upon the continent, hoping that he will be enabled to carry with him the firm determination of this government and people to put an end to that cold estrangement which has kept asunder the old and the new worlds, and to cultivate in its place the spirit of brotherly love, and to establish such a system of social intercourse as shall tend to perpetuate the most amicable relations between us.

It is proper to state, that all the books and works of art which your memorialist has had the honor of bringing with him were accompanied, in every instance, by letters expressive of the best spirit in regard to your most interesting country.

From his Excellency Count Duchatel, Minister of the Interior.

PARIS, April 8, 1847.

SIR: According to your desire to take charge of and present, yourself, to the federal government, a collection of administrative documents and other publications relative to my department, I have ordered a certain number of them to be bound and forwarded to you.

I should have wished, in presenting these to the government of the United States, through your agency, to have had it in my power to give you a more striking token of the sympathy inspired by your efforts to obtain a regular and permanent system of exchange of the intellectual productions of works of art and sciences, as well as the labors of public administrations; in a word, the exchange of everything that constitutes the civilization of two nations already united by ancient and precious recollections.

But the Department of the Interior, notwithstanding its numerous and important duties, have but few which require frequent or voluminous publications. Yet, I trust that those I send you will give the federal government useful notions and valuable information concerning the laws and institutions of France, as well as on its interior organization, and on the duties of the magistrates, to whom the central, departmental, and municipal administration is intrusted. I wish the government may find in this collection the character of usefulness I intended to give to it. Such results would be highly gratifying to me.

You have communicated to me, sir, your intention of collecting a. the

administrative documents you will be able to procure in the United States calculated to interest the several branches of my department. I thank you in advance for them; and you will oblige me greatly if you can procure all the official publications concerning the general administration, the States' legislation, the constitutions, laws, and regulations relative to hospitals, asylums, foundlings, deaf and dumb institutions, charitable establishments, prisons, the police, &c., &c.

You may rest assured, sir, of the great interest with which your honorable enterprise has inspired me. I have been too happy in having had, on several occasions, opportunities to give you proofs of the high price I attach to this intellectual intercourse between France and the United States, not to lend my hearty co-operation to the efforts you are now making to establish it upon a lasting basis in America and Europe.

Receive, sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

DUCHATEL,

Minister Secretary of the Department of the Interior.

In his letter dated November 25, 1846, inviting your memorialist to transmit to his department all possible information relative to the commerce, industry, agriculture, &c., of your beautiful country, his Excellency the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce terminates thus:

“It is important, sir, that from day to day these facts should be better known and appreciated on both sides, and that our intercourse with the United States should become more easy, more frequent, and more intimate. This end must be attained not only for the interest of our respective countries, but likewise for the security of peace and welfare of nations in general. The efforts you have already made to obtain such results are the best guaranty of the success your present labors are sure to meet with on the other side of the Atlantic.”

This letter was accompanied with about 2,000 volumes of works relative to agriculture, commerce, and industry of France, to be presented, in the name of his Excellency, to the several States of the Union which had already enlisted themselves in this system of intellectual union of nations.

The letter, dated April 29, 1847, of his Excellency Count Salvandy, Minister of Public Instruction, Great Master of the University, accompanying 4,000 volumes of ancient works, the monumental statistics of Paris, &c., &c., terminates thus:

“I have no doubt, sir, that during the new visit you are on the point of undertaking to those distant countries, your efforts will produce most important scientific results. It is with this conviction that I am happy to intrust to your care collections of precious works to be presented by France to the several scientific establishments of the United States, with those fraternal feelings she has always manifested for the interests and welfare of the American people.”

“It is with the greatest pleasure,” says his Excellency the Minister of War, in his letter dated April 12, 1847, “that my department will co-operate in the efforts you have made, and are constantly making, with so laudable perseverance, to establish scientific intercourse between the United States and France for the mutual advantage of our corresponding ministerial departments; and as a token of the lively interest I take in the success of your

mission, I place at your disposal several collections of works and documents relative to the War Department, of which the enclosed is the list, to be distributed, *in the name of France*, among those establishments of the United States to whom, in your own opinion, these documents may be useful."

Among these collections are to be found the great map of France, and all the documents, reports, &c., &c., relative the French colonies of Algery and North Africa.

Acknowledging the receipt of collections of books, maps, &c., presented to the city of Paris in the name of several States of the Union, the honorable Count Rambuteau, Prefect of the Department of the Seine, First Magistrate of this great city, terminated his letter dated March 6th, 1847, thus:

"These works, sir, in consideration of their intrinsic worth and importance, as well as the lively recollection of the fraternal feelings attached to them, require from us a distinct and striking proof of our esteem. In consequence, I have, according to your wishes, decided that they should occupy a special and separate room in the library of the *Hotel de Ville de Paris*."

Thanks to this decision, one of your memorialist's greatest desires is obtained; for we shall have, hereafter, a special and permanent exhibition of American genius in the most splendid mansion of the metropolis of the old world!

In the name of the Chamber of Deputies of France,

the honorable questors of the Chamber, Messrs. E. de L'Espee and Charles Clement, transmitting to your memorialist, besides a great number of the legislative documents published by order of the Chamber, a most splendid collection of works of art and science, destined for the States of *Maine, Massachusetts, Indiana, New York, Michigan, &c.*, expressed themselves thus, in their letter dated January 23, 1847:

"Independently of the above 588 volumes of parliamentary documents, we put at your disposal, sir, several important works you were kind enough to indicate as likely to be received with satisfaction by those States of the American Union who have, themselves, addressed to our Chamber precious works concerning natural history, geology, statistics, political economy, &c. Your intercourse with these States, sir, enables you to determine the most appropriate disposition to be made among them of these works; it is, therefore, with the greatest confidence we adopt the one you propose. With the 80 above volumes, the number of those to be distributed to the several above-mentioned States amounts to 668 volumes.

"It is to you, sir, to those efforts inspired by your patriotism and enlightened philanthropy, that we are indebted for the establishment of this new intercourse *between us and the American Union*. These reciprocal interchanges of the productions of human genius, which you have succeeded to establish, must, in accelerating the progress of civilization, powerfully contribute to increase the ancient fraternal feelings already existing between the United States and France. We could not, therefore, but joyfully welcome a system so fruitful in glorious results, and we are happy to contribute to its realization by the above-mentioned collection. We have the

honor of addressing you in the name of the Chamber of Deputies of France."

Previous to this, and ever since your memorialist's return to France in 1841, the Chamber of Deputies has never ceased to transmit to your honorable body not only the collections of all its legislative documents, but, besides, many most interesting and precious works, such as the famous *Collection des Historiens Français*, 20 folio volumes; the Collection du *Moniteur*, from 1830 to this present year; la Collection des *Lois de Duvergier*, &c., &c.; and a few days before leaving Paris, I received the following letter from the same source:

"CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, April 9, 1847.

"SIR: You have manifested to us the idea that one of our medals of the Chamber of Deputies would be received with some interest by the Congress of the United States of America; we therefore hasten to address you one of them, requesting you to present it to this honorable body; and we should be indeed happy to think that this medal would be kindly received by it.

"Thanking you, sir, for the communication you were kind enough to make to us in relation to this, we have the honor to be, with high consideration and esteem,

The Questors of the Chamber,

"E. De L'ESPEE,

"CHARLES CLEMENT.

"M. A. VATTEMARE, *Paris*."

As for the kindness with which your memorialist's proposals were received at the capital of the United States in 1840, he respectfully begs leave to refer to the annexed documents, containing the individual expression of the good feelings of the entire Executive cabinet, and every member of both branches of Congress, pledging their hearty concurrence with your memorialist's efforts to the full realization of his system. In these facts your honorable body will perceive the evidence of that profound impression which a consideration of this new method of binding nation to nation in the bonds of brotherhood, this new species of diplomacy for the formation of a general treaty of universal peace and good will, has created in quarters of the highest dignity and authority. Monarchs themselves have united with the most distinguished colleges, universities, and learned societies, as well as the most eminent men in private life, rendered illustrious for their attainments and their rich contributions to the stock of human knowledge, in putting the seal of their high approval to the plan itself, and in encouraging its humble but devoted advocate to fresh perseverance in his labor; while, on this continent, the proofs of the same feelings are manifest, from the fact that the legislatures of Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Vermont, New Jersey, &c. have not only passed resolutions in approval of the scheme, but have taken efficient measures to promote its success.

Your memorialist can point to a fact yet more cheering; and it is one which, while it fills his heart with gratitude on his own account, swells it with a just pride on yours. It is, that from the hour he last set his foot upon your shores, to this hour, though he has in that time traversed so large a portion of your country, and visited so many of your cities and great towns,

he has not yet been permitted to expend the first dollar either for his personal support or his travelling expenses. Everywhere he has been greeted with the most cordial welcome; everywhere he has found friends, supporters, voluntary and zealous fellow-laborers; requests and invitations, daily multiplying, have called him on from State to State, and from city to city; thus evincing the ardor and freshness of that love of science, and literature, and art, which is in all its vigorous youth among you. The recital of this in his native land has there awakened a corresponding enthusiasm in behalf of this wonderful people—an enthusiasm which centuries of mere commercial or diplomatic intercourse would have failed to awaken.

If so much has thus already been effected, what may be rationally looked for as the happy results yet to be realized. The great simplicity of the plan commends it at once to every understanding; and its utter separation from everything of a political and party character, clears before it an unobstructed and rapid career.

Animated and supported by these facts and considerations, your memorialist is emboldened to present to your honorable body the practical features of his plan, and very respectfully, yet earnestly, to invoke your own high agency in aiding to carry them into effect.

After consulting on the subject the most learned scientific bodies, as well as the most illustrious statesmen, here and abroad, and reflecting maturely on the results of many years' personal experience, he is led to the conclusion that the most direct, easy, and certain mode of effecting the object in view, was to establish and organize a general international agency, for the exclusive purpose of conducting scientific and literary exchanges between the governments, legislatures, and municipal and scientific bodies in the nations of Europe, on the one hand, and the federal government and the States of the Union on the other.

The seat of such agency to be in the city of Paris, having subordinate agents for the United States, and in the capitals of European nations, whose duty it shall be to collect and receive the objects of exchange in the district assigned to each, and forward them to the central depot in Paris, from which point the general exchange between the two hemispheres shall be directly made, and thence distributed to the subordinate agencies, and so spread for universal benefit, throughout every part of the respective countries which shall enter into the plan. Of course, these subordinate agencies may be multiplied to any extent, as the growing population, especially of this country, may demand, and as the benefit of the system shall attract to it increasing patronage and support.

Connected with the federal agency should be a system of authentic reports, stating what has been collected for exchange, and also what has been received in return. These reports (while they operate as a salutary check on agents disposed to be unfaithful) would be a means of furnishing mutually to the two continents what each might obtain from the other, and where the objects desired were to be found.

To illustrate: suppose a European city were forming an extensive collection of fossil remains, to illustrate a course of lectures on geology or comparative anatomy. In looking over the published reports of objects for exchange, they see in one of your western cities or towns in the interior a list of fossil remains recently discovered in that vicinity, of which duplicate specimens could be furnished: all such city would have to do would be to write to Paris, and request that in the next national exchange with

America, fossils from Missouri or Illinois be included, at the same time stating what scientific works lay unused in their own libraries, ready for distribution abroad. Thus, by a machinery the most simple, easy, rapid, and certain, two distant spots of the earth might be furnished with the means of interchanging intellectual wealth on the one hand for physical treasures on the other, of the very existence of which they might otherwise have remained in ignorance—an exchange to mutual benefit, which by no other possible means would, or could, ever have happened.

It is obvious, that so far as legislation can subserve the establishment of such a plan, (which, after all, must rest for its support on the free approbation of the people, the ultimate recipients of its benefits,) it must look to the legislatures of the several States for aid. But besides the local laws which they may see fit to enact for its encouragement, it will be in the power of your honorable body not only to honor and accredit it by your high recognition and sanction, but to contribute to its success by your own enactments; and in this view your petitioner most respectfully prays—

1st. That the law securing patent right and copyright may be so amended as to require all authors or publishers, taking out a copyright for works to be printed, to place one copy in the American library of the city of Paris, in France, subject to the order of government, in addition to the two copies now deposited in the library of Congress.

2d. And, in like manner, requiring one copy of the specification, with the drawings and model accompanying the same, of each machine or new invention, or improvement, for which patent shall be granted.

3d. The enactment of a law, accompanied by all necessary guards, for the prevention of fraud, admitting duty free all works and other objects addressed by governments, through the general agency in Paris, to the branch depot, exclusively for the purpose of international exchange.

4th. That the resolutions heretofore passed by both Houses, in July, 1840, in the words following, (and which have hitherto remained a dead letter on the statute book,) be carried into full effect, (amending the word *authorized* to those of *hereby directed*.)

“1. That the librarian, under the supervision of the Committee on the Library, be *authorized* to exchange such duplicates as may be in the library, for books or works.

“2. That he be directed in the same way to exchange documents.

“3. That hereafter, fifty additional copies of each volume of documents, printed by order of either House, be printed and bound for the purpose of exchange in foreign countries, and placed at the disposal of the central agency in Paris.”

5th. The above regulations being understood as applying exclusively to works of a scientific character, and promotive of intellectual improvement; works of a different description being allowed to seek the usual channels, opened by those engaged in the book-trade.

In conclusion, your memorialist takes leave to assure your honorable body that, in asking at your hands the sanction and aid of governmental power, he is induced by no petty, miserable views to his personal advantage or emolument;—all *that* he has already sacrificed on the altar of this object of his enthusiasm; for this, he has not only made a burnt-offering of his own private fortune, but, what is to him far more dear, has given up the joys of domestic life, the sweet solace of his own fire-side, volun-

tarily banishing himself from the bosom of wife and children, home and country, to traverse sea and land, encounter danger, privations, and fatigue, to spend solitary days and sleepless nights, and amidst the jeers of the ignorant, and the suspicions and calumnies of the selfish and the narrow-minded, to consecrate himself to the triumph of *one simple benevolent idea*.

He asks the establishment of a permanent agency, in order to give permanent embodiment to that which is as yet but a temporary experiment; to provide "a local habitation and a name" for that which, as yet, has been only the fairy dream of an enthusiast, or, at best, but the first fruits of the efforts of a wanderer, sensible (alas! with but too much reason) of the frail tenure by which he holds his own life; and apprehending that unless some palpable and permanent form be given to the object to which that life has been devoted, no other individual might be found to pursue it with the same fond and untiring devotion of heart, he appeals to your honorable body to take his long-loved project under the broad wings of the national protection: once there, he will have no further fears for its security and ultimate triumph.

Nor let it be objected that the present is an inauspicious period for the establishment and prosecution of a great national object like this, which may be expected best to flourish in the smiling moments of public peace; because all the lessons of history teach us that the most valuable and important of literary and other establishments which have blessed the world have had their origin in periods of the highest public excitement, and many of them were, in point of fact, born in the very midst of revolution itself. Having this heavy burden taken off his spirit, your memorialist will feel himself at liberty to consummate the offering which he has made of himself to it, by devoting the remaining years that may yet be spared to him to watch its progress, to aid, as he may be able, its growing strength, and as a father to stretch out his willing, though it may be but a weak and trembling hand, to give his last benefaction, with his latest prayer, to the child of his long cherished affection.

ALEXANDRE VATTEMARE.

WASHINGTON, February 8, 1848.

Concurrent opinions of the President and Vice President of the United States, the heads of departments, and members of both Houses of Congress, in approbation of M. Vattemare's plan for international exchanges.

Mons. Alexandre Vattemare, of France, respectfully requests the honorable members of the Senate and House of Representatives to do him the honor to affix their signatures to this paper, *as a mark of their approbation* of his project of a system of *international exchange* of the specimens of the production of the arts, sciences, industry, and natural history, of each country.

The absolute and the representative governments of Europe have entered with eagerness into this *pacific coalition*, calculated to draw closer and closer the bonds of human society, and thus to realize and extend to all NATIONS the noble idea contained in the American motto, and to let it read for the future, not "*E Pluribus Unum*," but *Ex Omnibus Unum*.

Mr. Vattemare has crossed the Atlantic for the sole purpose of using his utmost exertions to unite the two worlds, and to excite a mutual good feeling by the reciprocal interchange of good offices; and he flatters himself that the AMERICAN NATION, so great, so enlightened, and so forward in adopting every improvement for the benefit of mankind, will not hesitate to embrace, through its worthy representatives, *this truly holy alliance*, which he offers them as an humble missionary of peace and good will towards men—all children of the same ETERNAL FATHER!

WASHINGTON, June 6, 1840.

From the Vice President of the United States.

I have conversed fully with Mr. Alexandre Vattemare on the plan of international exchanges, as explained above, and by him verbally, and I not only approve of his effort, but consider it most liberal, and honorable, and praiseworthy, on his part, to make such exertions to advance the happiness of mankind, and their advancement in sciences. I wish him entire success.

RH. M. JOHNSON.

JUNE 7, 1840.

The President of the United States, upon reading the above, was pleased to write his approbation as follows:

In all which I very cordially concur.

M. VAN BUREN.

STATE OF MAINE.

Senator.

The mutual interchange between nations of the productions of genius and intellect, is a happy suggestion. In being carried out to full practical results, in conformity with the views of Mr. Vattemare, it will greatly enlarge and extend the sphere of talent and intelligence, and give a universality to their influence and usefulness, scarcely to be attained in any other way.

If Mr. Vattemare's laudable designs shall be successful, he will have inscribed his own name high upon that pedestal which bears the names of so many who have distinguished themselves in the promotion of civilization, and the improvement and happiness of man.

JOHN RUGGLES.

Representatives.

The theory of the plan is plausible; I hope it may prove beneficial.

THOMAS DAVEE, of Blanchard.

Nathan Clifford, Newfield.

George Evans,

Za. Lowell,

Virgil D. Parris,
M. C. Buckfield,
Benjamin Randall, Bath.
A. Smith, Cumberland District.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Senator.

"I concur in opinion with the gentlemen whose names precede mine,"
was written by the Hon. Mr. Clayton, Senator from Delaware—under
which the Hon. Mr. Pierce wrote—

And I:

FRANKLIN PIERCE, of New Hampshire.

Representatives.

Charles Gordon Atherton, Nashua.
Edmund Burke, Newport.
Ira A. Eastman, Gilmanton.
Tristram Shaw, Exeter.
Jared W. Williams, Lancaster.

STATE OF VERMONT.

Senator.

Mr. Vattermare's project is deserving of favor and support, and I hope
his efforts to carry it into execution may be successful.

SAM. PRENTISS, of Vermont.

Representatives.

Horace Everett, of Windsor.
Hiland Hall, of Bennington.
Isaac Fletcher, of Lynden.
T. Smith, of the 4th District.

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Senators.

I cheerfully add my testimony to the numerous approvals of Mr. Vattermare's plan of exchange in the arts, and I am satisfied that it will be
alike honorable, liberal, and useful.

JOHN DAVIS, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Mr. Vattermare's conception is original, philanthropic, and practical. It
is worthy of the age and of the approbation of all enlightened men. The
cry of the civilized world is that of Ajax—

"δος δ'εφθαλμοῖσιν ιδεσθαι."

DANIEL WEBSTER.

Representatives.

I add with pleasure my signature in token of my approbation of the design of Mr. Vattemare, and my good wishes for its success.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,
Member of the House from Massachusetts.

[In addition to the above, Mr. Adams has addressed a very handsome and complimentary letter to Mr. Vattemare.]

Stranger, go on with your great work. By it you are advancing the cause of civilization and improvement; by it, distant people will not only exchange specimens of art, literature, and science, but they will intermit thoughts, ideas, and sentiments. May that reward follow your efforts which belongs to those whose labors improve the condition of society, and make men wiser and better.

G. N. BRIGGS,
of Lanesborough, Massachusetts.

Osmyn Baker, of Amherst.
Wm. B. Calhoun, of Springfield.

Virtute et Numine.

C. CUSHING,
of Newburyport.

W. S. Hastings, of Mendon, Mass.
Levi Lincoln,
W. Parmenter, of Cambridge.

I highly approve of Mr. Vattemare's project, and hope it may result in the extensive usefulness he so benevolently anticipates.

JOHN REED.

I approve most heartily of the philanthropic design of Mr. Alexandre Vattemare, and sincerely wish him success.

LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, Salem.

H. Williams, of Taunton.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND.

Senators.

A proposition to diffuse knowledge among men, will be approved by the friends of man.

N. R. KNIGHT, Rhode Island.

June 23, 1840.

WASHINGTON, SENATE CHAMBER,
June 26, 1840.

Knowledge is power.

NATHAN F. DIXON,
Pawcatuck, Rhode Island.

Representatives.

R. B. Cranston, of Rhode Island.

To the approbation I have already expressed in the House of Representatives, as a member of the Committee on the Library of Congress, I take pleasure in adding this individual assurance of my best wishes for the success of Mr. Vattemare's plan for international exchanges.

JOSEPH L. TILLINGHAST,
of Providence.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

Senators.

The plan of Mr. Alexandre Vattemare, for international exchanges of specimens of the productions of the arts, sciences, industry, and natural history of each country, meets my approbation, and I think he ought to be encouraged to carry his system into full effect.

PERRY SMITH, of Connecticut.

I take pleasure in expressing the favorable opinion I entertain of the system of exchanges proposed by Mr. Vattemare. It is well calculated to extend useful information, and does honor to the genius and philanthropy of its projector.

J. W. HUNTINGTON, of Connecticut.

Representatives.

John H. Brockway, of Ellington.
Thomas B. Osborn, of Fairfield.
Truman Smith, of Litchfield.
William L. Storrs, of Middletown.
Joseph Trumbull, of Hartford.
Th. W. Williams, of New London.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

Senator.

I cordially approve of Mr. Vattemare's system of international exchange, &c.

N. P. TALLMADGE, of New York.

Representatives.

Believing that the views of Mr. Vattemare, if carried into effect, would be beneficial to my country, I subscribe my name with great pleasure.

GOUV. KEMBLE,
Cold Spring, New York.

Mr. Vattemare is at once the missionary of the arts and of philanthropy; his field is the world. He has my best wishes that success may attend his noble enterprise.

EDWARD CURTIS,
City of New York.

Judson Allen, Broome county.
 D. D. Barnard, Albany.
 D. P. Brewster, Oswego.
 James Monroe, City of New York.
 A. C. Hand, Elizabethtown, State of New York.
 T. R. Strong, Wayne county, New York.
 Thomas B. Jackson, Long Island, New York.
 Ogden Hoffman, city of New York.

I cordially approve Mr. Vattermare's plan.

CHRISTOPHER MORGAN,
 Aurora, Cayuga county, New York.

Luther C. Peck, Alleghany county, New York.
 Francis Granger, of Canandaigua.

My best wishes for the success of Mr. Alexandre Vattermare's design, as expressed in the preceding address.

R. P. MARVIN,
 Chautauque county, New York.

Charles F. Mitchell, of Lockport, New York.
 Nathaniel Jones, Warwick, Orange county, New York.
 Thomas Kempshall, of Rochester, New York.
 James D. L. Montanya, Rockland county, New York.
 John Ely, Greene county, New York.
 John Fine, St. Lawrence county, New York.
 Seth M. Gates, of Le Roy, Genesee county, New York.
 Amasa Dana, of Ithaca, Tompkins county, New York.
 P. J. Wagner, of New York.
 Rufus Palen, of Fallsburg, New York.
 M. H. Grinnell, city of New York.
 Edward Rogers, Madison, Madison county, New York.
 John H. Prentiss, Cooperstown, Otsego county, New York.
 Millard Fillmore, of Buffalo, New York.
 Hiram P. Hunt, Troy, New York.
 Andrew W. Doig, New York.
 Meredith Mallory, Steuben, New York.
 A. Vanderpoel, Kinderhook, Columbia county, New York.
 J. C. Clark, Bainbridge, Chenango, New York.
 Thomas C. Chittenden, 18th Congressional district, New York.
 Nehemiah H. Earl, of Syracuse, Onondaga county, New York.
 Stephen B. Leonard, Oswego, Tioga county, New York.
 D. Russell, Salem, New York.
 John G. Floyd, Utica, Oneida county, New York.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

Senators.

The system of literary exchanges to which Mr. Vattermare has devoted himself with the zeal of an apostle, commends itself to the generous, the learned, and the wise, because it promotes a commonwealth of letters, and

a community of intelligence. The United States will receive benefit by its adoption. It will bring to us the letters and sciences of centuries gone by, and the improvements founded upon them. Europe will not profit less: her governments and people will be taught much, which they do not sufficiently understand, of a nation youthful, vigorous, enterprising, imbued with the spirit of inventions and the love of letters, and rapidly assuming her just position of power and influence in all the relations of the commercial and Christian world.

SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD,

of New Jersey.

WASHINGTON, *June 10, 1840.*

I concur in the approbation expressed of the plan of Mr. A. Vattemare, of a system of international exchange, which he has submitted. It is in accordance with the enlightened spirit of the age, and reflects upon him the highest honor.

GARRETT D. WALL.

Representatives.

James B. Ayerig, of Syramus, New Jersey.

Daniel B. Ryall, of Freehold, New Jersey.

William B. Cooper, of Gloucester county, New Jersey.

Joseph Kille, of Salem, New Jersey.

Joseph F. Randolph, of New Brunswick, New Jersey.

The liberal design of Mr. Vattemare has my entire approbation.

D. VROOM,

of Summerville, New Jersey.

Philemon Dickerson, of Paterson, New Jersey.

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Senators.

Between the old and the new world there has long existed a mutual spirit of enterprise in the exchange of commercial objects.

But it belongs to Mr. Vattemare to have suggested a national interchange of intellectual matter, both as regards literature and the fine arts.

I hope the enlightened nations of the world will join cheerfully in bringing to consummation a project of such universal interest.

DAN'L STURGEON, Pennsylvania.

JUNE 20, 1840.

Representatives.

As a member of the Committee on the Library of Congress, I have had occasion to examine the project of Mr. Alexandre Vattemare, and most heartily approve of it. I sincerely hope that he may be successful in its establishment.

CHARLES NAYLOR, of Philadelphia.

Mr. Vattemare's active benevolence, and the kind and Catholic spirit exhibited in his plan, entitle him to much higher evidence of consideration than is afforded by complying with his very moderate request.

JOHN SERGEANT,

A Representative of the State of Pennsylvania.

William S. Ramsey, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

John Galbraith, of Erie, Pennsylvania.

R. H. Hammond, of Milton, Pennsylvania.

John Edwards, of Delaware county, Pennsylvania.

David Petrikin, of Danville, Columbia county, Pennsylvania.

A. G. Marchand, of Pennsylvania.

Samuel W. Morris, Pennsylvania.

Edwd. Davies, of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania.

Thomas Henry, of Pennsylvania.

Peter Newhard, Allentown, Pennsylvania.

L. Paynter, Philadelphia county, Pennsylvania.

Charles Ogle, of Pennsylvania.

W. Simonton, of Hanover, Pennsylvania.

Enos Hook, of Green county, Pennsylvania.

Isaac Leet, of Washington, Pennsylvania.

William Beatty, of Butler, Pennsylvania.

Francis James, of Westchester, Pennsylvania.

George McCulloch, of Centre county, Pennsylvania.

David W. Wagener, of Easton, Pennsylvania.

James Gerry, of Pennsylvania.

George W. Toland, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Richard Biddle, of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

I take pleasure in expressing my approbation of the object of M. Vattemare, on this matter.

JAMES COOPER, Pennsylvania.

Joseph Fornance, of Norristown, Pennsylvania.

La belle France nous offre toujours des bienfaits et contribue continuellement à notre bonheur. Jadis elle nous envoya un *Lafayette* pour aider à l'accomplissement de notre liberté politique, maintenant nous en recevons un *Vattemare* qui ne manquera pas de mettre le comble à nos plaisirs intellectuels par ses efforts à établir la liberté la plus spirituelle et la paix la plus universelle entre toutes les nations de la terre.

Avancez donc dans cette entreprise heureuse, et lorsque l'on en recueillera les fruits, la France et son *Vattemare* seront ensemble proclamés les bienfaiteurs du monde.

TRANSLATION.

Beautiful France ever renders and promotes our happiness. She sent us *Lafayette* to aid in the achievement of our political liberty, and now we welcome *Vattemare*, who brings us intellectual enjoyment, and with it the refinement of freedom, the cultivation of peace and good will to every nation and people under the canopy of heaven.

Go on in the good work, and when the fruits shall be gathered, the indefatigable author and his country will be hailed as the benefactors of the world.

GEORGE M. KEIM.

STATE OF DELAWARE:

Senator.

I concur in opinion with the gentlemen whose names precede mine.

THOMAS CLAYTON,
of New Castle, Delaware.

June 27, 1840.

Representative.

I cordially approve of Mr. Vattemare's project or system of international exchange.

THOMAS ROBINSON,
Georgetown, Delaware.

STATE OF MARYLAND.

Senator.

Concurring in the views expressed by several honorable Senators, whose names are subscribed to their several opinions of Mr. Vattemare's system, I need do no more than express that concurrence, and my wishes for his success.

WILLIAM D. MERRICK, of Maryland.

Representatives.

James Carroll, Maryland.

John T. H. Worthington, Maryland.

It affords me pleasure to add my approbation to Mr. Vattemare's undertaking.

D. JENIFER, of Maryland.

John Dennis, Princess Ann, Maryland.

Solomon Hillen, Jr., City of Baltimore, Maryland.

I unite cheerfully with other members of the House of Representatives, in the expression of a wish that Mr. Vattemare may be able to accomplish his commendable undertaking.

FRANCIS THOMAS, of Maryland.

I approve of Mr. Vattemare's project of a system of international exchange of specimens of productions of the arts, &c., of each country.

PHILIP F. THOMAS, Easton, Maryland.

In the interchange between the old and the new world of the specimens of arts and science, as proposed by the plan of Mr. Vattemare, there is much of instruction and intellectual entertainments to be derived by the inhabitants of both hemispheres.

WILLIAM COST JOHNSON,
Catoctin Valley, Maryland.

STATE OF VIRGINIA.

Representatives.

Should you succeed in thus establishing a new bond of union between the members of the great republic of letters, you will doubtless receive from them the thanks which your efforts have already deserved. The more general diffusion of knowledge for which you are laboring will serve, I trust, to increase the number of those who will understand and appreciate your exertions for the improvement of your race.

R. M. T. HUNTER,
Speaker of the House of Reps.

Joel Holleman, Isle of Wight, Virginia.
J. W. Jones, Chesterfield county, Virginia.
G. W. Hopkins, Lebanon, Virginia.
G. C. Dromgoole, Virginia.
J. Garland, Lovingson, Nelson county, Virginia.

I take great pleasure in saying that the plan of Mr. Vattermare meets my hearty approbation.

JOHN M. BOTTS, of Virginia.

I am happy to have this opportunity of expressing more fully my gratitude for Mr. Vattermare's truly original and grand conception of introducing the nations of the earth to each other by the right hands of their arts, sciences, discoveries, curiosities, products of labor and lands, and thus uniting them by an "*exchange*" of *courtesy* as well as of "*specimens*," which will not only distribute and equalize the blessings of *peace* to all mankind, but guard them much from the curses of *war*.

I delight in a plan which promises the opportunity to this young republican nation of displaying her charms, gifts, and graces to Europe, where her riches and beauties and powers are not known, and where she cannot, without throwing away her modesty, claim her own—too often attributed to her English mother, because of nearly the "same language, laws, and religion."

If he succeed, as I sincerely hope he will, it will be another instance added to the many in which a son of France has proved himself a benefactor to the United States of America.

HENRY A. WISE, of Accomack, Va.

Robert Craig, of Christiansburg, Virginia.
Joseph Johnson, of Virginia.
William Lucas, of Virginia.
Francis E. Rives, of Virginia.
W. L. Goggin, of the 8th district, Virginia.
T. Hill, of Virginia.
Linn Banks, of Virginia.
John Taliaferro, of Virginia.
Andrew Beirne, of Virginia.
G. W. Samuels, of Woodstock, Virginia.
L. Steenrod, of Wheeling, Virginia.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Senators.

The suggestion of Mr. Vattermare is exceedingly striking, and entitled to the utmost favor from every well wisher of his race who duly appreciates the blessings of knowledge. No pains should be spared to carry into practical execution his noble conception; and I should feel myself happy in having it in my power in any way to contribute thereto.

R. STRANGE, Fayetteville, N. C.

I cordially concur in the above expression of approbation [the expression of Senator Benton, of Missouri,] of the plan of Mr. Vattermare for the extension of knowledge and information among the nations of the civilized world.

BEDFORD BROWN.

Representatives.

Charles Fisher, of Salisbury, N. C.
 Edmund Deberry, of Lawrenceville, N. C.
 Charles Shepard, of North Carolina.
 John Hill, of North Carolina.
 James J. McKay, of North Carolina.
 M. T. Hawkins, of North Carolina.
 W. Montgomery, of Albright's, N. C.
 K. Rayner, of North Carolina.
 J. A. Bynum, of North Carolina.
 James Graham, of Rutherfordton, N. C.

It gives me pleasure to assure Mr. Vattermare that his noble purpose of exciting a mutual good feeling, "by the reciprocal interchange of good offices" between the old world and the new, meets with my hearty approbation. Though we have been "enemies in war," we ought to be, "in peace, friends."

EDWD. STANLY, Washington, N. C.

I have no doubt that the plan proposed by Mr. Vattermare will greatly conduce to the happiness and improvement of mankind, if it can be carried into successful operation.

LEWIS WILLIAMS, of Panther Creek, N. C.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Senator.

The adoption of Mr. Vattermare's project by the enlightened governments of the world, would be a decided step in the progress of general civilization.

WM. C. PRESTON, of South Carolina.

Representatives.

James Rogers, Pinckney District, South Carolina.
 I. E. Holmes, Charleston, South Carolina.

R. Barnwell Rhett, of South Carolina.
 S. W. Butler, South Carolina.
 Waddy Thompson, Jr., South Carolina.
 F. W. Pickens, South Carolina.

I cordially approve of Mr. Vattermare's project of international exchange of the productions of the arts, &c. Its accomplishment must result in general benefit to the human family.

JOHN CAMPBELL, South Carolina.

I do most cheerfully add my humble name in commendation of this most invaluable enterprise of Mr. Vattermare.

JOHN K. GRIFFIN,
 Newberry Court House, S. C.

TRANSLATION.

C'est avec beaucoup de plaisir que je recommande à la considération de mes collègues les efforts de M. Vattermare pour l'établissement d'un échange international des ouvrages d'art et de littérature; à sa conviction des résultats heureux que son système doit produire, je joint la mienne.

THOMAS D. SUMTER,
 Sumter District, S. C.

It is with great pleasure that I commend to the consideration of my colleagues the efforts of Mr. Vattermare to establish an international exchange of works both of art and literature. To his conviction of the happy results which his system promises, and will produce, I will most cordially add mine.

THOMAS D. SUMTER,
 South Carolina.

STATE OF GEORGIA.

Senators.

With pleasure I express my hearty concurrence in the opinion of my distinguished countryman in regard to the merit and importance of the literary enterprise and undertaking of Mr. Vattermare.

WILSON LUMPKIN,
 of Athens, Georgia.

WASHINGTON, June 22, 1840.

I concur readily with the gentlemen whose names precede mine in approving the plan of M. Vattermare.

A. CUTHBERT.

Representatives.

If the plan of Mr. Vattermare can be carried into effect, it will bring the nations into a more intimate acquaintance than can be effected even by the facilities of steam communication.

RICHARD W. HABERSHAM,
 Member of the House of Representatives, of Georgia.

W. T. Colquitt, of Georgia.
 T. C. Alford, of Georgia.

Lot Warren, of Palmyra, Lee county, Georgia.
 W. C. Dawson, Greensburgh, Georgia.
 Edward J. Black, of Georgia.
 E. A. Nisbet, Macon, Georgia.

I have great pleasure in stating that I regard with the most lively interest the plan of Mr. Vattermare, for the mutual exchange of works of Europe and this country.

THOMAS BUTLER KING,
 A Representative of the State of Georgia.

The undersigned, as an individual, would cheerfully do anything in his power to promote all proper efforts to advance the interests of the "arts and sciences," and does not think, however, that as a legislative body, the Congress of the United States, or its members, has power or authority to adopt or aid in the execution of the "project" of Monsieur Vattermare: the best legislative medium, he thinks, would be the respective State governments.

MARK A. COOPER,
 of the State of Georgia.

STATE OF KENTUCKY.

Senators.

The plan of interchange proposed by Mr. Vattermare cannot fail to augment the knowledge, while it will cement the amicable relations of the nations adopting it. He is entitled to great praise for the arduous and disinterested exertions which he has made to engage the acceptance and execution of the plan.

H. CLAY, of Ashland
 J. J. Crittenden, of Kentucky.

Representatives.

John Pope, of Springfield, Kentucky.
 W. O. Butler, of Kentucky.
 L. W. Andrews, of Flemingsburg, Kentucky.

I approve all efforts calculated to make nations better acquainted with each other by an exchange of their natural and intellectual productions.

J. R. UNDERWOOD,
 of Bowling Green, Ky.

I take great pleasure in adding the humble token of my highest approbation to the most commendable enterprise of Mr. Vattermare.

W. J. GRAVES,
 Louisville, Kentucky.

Linn Boyd, of Belleviews, Kentucky.
 Willis Green, of Kentucky.
 Garrett Davis, of Parris, Kentucky.
 R. Hawes, of Winchester, Kentucky.

Philip Triplett, of Kentucky.
John White, of Richmond, Kentucky.

STATE OF TENNESSEE.

Senators.

Mr. Vattermare's project is peculiar, vast, and useful. If carried out, it would make a striking and valuable miniature exhibit of the world in the arts, the sciences, and every variety of knowledge.

S. ANDERSON, of Tennessee.

I heartily concur in the expression of entire approbation of the exertions of Mr. Vattermare, and believe his efforts, if successful, will be productive of great beneficial results.

FELIX GRUNDY,
of Nashville, Tennessee.

Representatives.

Christopher H. Williams, of Tennessee.

John W. Crockett, of Tennessee.

Wm. B. Carter, of Tennessee.

Joseph L. Williams, Knoxville, Tennessee.

C. Johnson, Clarksville, Tennessee.

N. P. Gentry, Harpeth, Tennessee.

J. W. Blackwell, Athens, Tennessee.

A. McClellan, East Tennessee.

Hopkins L. Turney, Winchester, Tennessee.

H. M. Watterson, Shelbyville, Tennessee.

W. B. Campbell, Carthage, Smith county, Tennessee.

A. V. Brown, Tennessee.

From a hasty examination of the project of M. Vattermare, I regard it as highly useful, as well as liberal and enlightened. It is certainly practicable; and, it seems to me, must commend itself to the patronage of every friend of the arts, and of the improvement of the human family.

JOHN BELL, of Tennessee.

STATE OF OHIO.

Senators.

I approve of M. Vattermare's plan, and will, with great pleasure, aid in its accomplishment.

BENJAMIN TAPPAN.

I, also.

W. ALLEN, of Ohio.

Representatives.

John W. Allen, Cleveland, Ohio.

Wm. Key Bond, Chillicothe, Ohio.

P. G. Goode, Shelby county, Ohio.
 John Hastings, Salem, Columbiana county, Ohio.
 Joseph Ridgeway, Columbus, Ohio.
 John B. Weller, Hamilton, Ohio.
 J. R. Giddings, Ashtabula county, Ohio.
 Henry Swearingen, Ohio.
 D. A. Starkweather, Canton, Ohio.
 S. Mason, Ohio.
 G. Sweney, Ohio.
 D. P. Leadbetter, Millersburg, Holmes county, Ohio.
 Calvary Morris, Ohio.
 William Doan, Ohio.
 W. Medill, Lancaster, Ohio.

SIR: I cheerfully annex my name as evidence of my approbation of the laudable business in which you are engaged. You have my sincere wishes for success and happiness.

A. DUNCAN, of Ohio.

I highly approve of Mr. Vattemare's plan for the spread of useful knowledge, and most cordially give my signature and best wishes for his success.

JONATHAN TAYLOR, of Ohio.

I most cordially reciprocate the motives of Mr. Vattemare in his proposed system of interchange.

ISAAC PARRISH,
 of Cambridge, Ohio.

STATE OF LOUISIANA.

Senators.

Mr. Vattemare's plan promising nothing but good, can hardly fail to command the approbation and cordial good wishes of all.

ROBERT CARTER NICHOLAS,
 of Louisiana.

Les efforts de M. Vattemare pour faire reusir le projet d'échange entre les differens gouvernemens civilises, est digne d'éloger; son resultat est bien fait pour cimenter l'union et la paix qui devrait caracteriser leurs relations et en même temps avancer le progrès des sciences et des arts.

A. MOUTON, de la Louisiane.

Representatives.

Orgueilleux de savoir que votre système a reçu son premier accueil aux Etats Unis dans le Sénat de mon Etat, il ne me reste qu'à faire des vœux pourqu'il soit goûté de la même manière, ce dont je ne doute, sur tous les points de l'Union.

E. D. WHITE.

I confine myself to the unqualified expression of my approbation of Mr. Vattemare's plan, and sincerely hope it may be fully consummated.

THOS. W. CHINN,
of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

R. Garland, of Opelousas, Louisiana.

STATE OF INDIANA.

Senator.

SENATE CHAMBER, WASHINGTON CITY,
June 16, 1840.

Concurring with the Senators who have signed this document, I subscribe my name.

O. H. SMITH, of Indiana.

Representatives.

James Rariden, of Indiana.

All measures of avowed public utility should receive the sanction of public men; and there is none, in my humble estimation, calculated to promote universal science to a greater extent than the project of M. Vattemare.

JNO. W. DAVIS, of Indiana.

I heartily approve of your design.

GEO. H. PROFFIT, of Indiana.

John Carr, Charleston, Indiana.

W. W. Wick, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Thomas Smith, Versailles, Indiana.

I approve.

T. A. HOWARD,
7th Congressional District, Indiana.

STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Senators.

M. Alexandre Vattemare's praiseworthy exertions for bringing into successful operation a system of international exchanges between the old and the new world, of such results of intellectual enterprise, skill, and invention as are most remarkable and interesting in the science of literature, the fine arts, &c., well deserves, and I trust will receive, the patronage of every enlightened nation. The United States of America, at least, will not fail to contribute their full share in furtherance of the fulfilment of so laudable an undertaking.

RICHARD M. YOUNG,
of Illinois.

SENATE CHAMBER, June 13, 1840.

The project of Mr. Vattermare strikes me as a most happy conception; and if properly carried into operation, will be productive of much good.

JOHN M. ROBINSON, of Illinois.

Representatives.

You have, with great pleasure, my approbation of your plan to distribute books and knowledge to all the world.

JOHN REYNOLDS,
of the State of Illinois.

Z. Casey, Mount Vernon, Illinois.

John T. Stewart, Springfield, Illinois.

STATE OF ALABAMA.

Senators.

I most cordially approve of the plan of M. Vattermare's "system of international exchange," and heartily desire its successful accomplishment.

C. C. CLAY, of Alabama.

I am fully aware that the object of M. Vattermare is a laudable one; but have not been able to give to it such an examination as will enable me to judge of its practicability.

WILLIAM R. KING, of Alabama.

Representatives.

Reuben Chapman, Somerville, Morgan county, Alabama.

As a member of the Committee on the Library of Congress, I have had occasion to examine the very enlightened and benevolent proposition of M. Vattermare, to establish a system of national exchanges in the *arts*, in the *products of labor* and *invention*, in the *specimens of natural history* in the different countries, and particularly in the exchange of duplicate volumes between the libraries of foreign countries; and I take great pleasure in saying that the scheme is every way worthy of the generous enthusiasm of the gentleman by whom it is proposed; and, if carried into effect with an energy corresponding to its importance, it cannot fail to confer the most lasting benefits on the human race.

DIXON H. LEWIS,
of Lowndesboro', Lowndes county, Alabama.

David Hubbard, Courtland, Alabama.

Approving of everything calculated to encourage the spread of knowledge, as the hand-maid of virtue, I take pleasure in adding my signature, as evidence of my approbation of M. Vattermare's efforts.

GEO. W. CRABB, of Alabama.

James Dillet, Alabama.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

Senators.

I concur in the above recommendation, [the recommendation of the Hon. John Norvell, of Michigan.]

R. J. WALKER.

No proposition has come within my knowledge which promises so much to dissipate prejudice and diffuse a liberal intelligence among the great family of mankind, and upon such economical terms of reciprocity, as that of international exchanges proposed by Mr. Vattemare. I conclude, therefore, the generous and benevolent, everywhere, must concur in wishing success to his enterprise.

JOHN HENDERSON, of Mississippi.

Representatives.

The undersigned takes great pleasure in adding the humble tribute of his approbation to those already obtained by Monsieur Vattemare to his design, as set forth in the preceding address.

A. G. BROWN,

Mem. Ho. of Reps. U. S. from Mississippi.

An equal competition between the intellectual labors of the eastern and western hemispheres, must be productive of the happiest results.

J. THOMPSON, of Mississippi.

STATE OF MISSOURI.

Senators.

Every measure which would have the effect of spreading the lights of religion and knowledge, and to bring the different nations of the earth into close communication, and bind them together by the bands of harmony, love, and common interests, must have beneficial results. Such I believe would be the tendency of Mr. Vattemare's exertions.

LEWIS F. LINN, of Missouri.

I cannot limit myself to the expression of my great approbation of Mr. Vattemare's plan, and my sincere desire to see it accomplished, but must add that I feel it as one of the felicities of my life to have had an opportunity of making the personal acquaintance of a gentleman who is the author and inventor of a scheme so enlarged and liberal, and so conducive to the good understanding of nations, and who unites to great and varied talents an amiability which has conciliated friends all over the world.

THOMAS H. BENTON, of Missouri.

Representatives.

John Miller, Cooper county, Missouri.

John Jameson, Fulton, Missouri.

STATE OF ARKANSAS.

Senators.

The project of Mr. Vattemare of establishing an international exchange of the specimens of the arts, science, industry, and natural history, is one which must meet the cordial approbation of every enlightened and liberal citizen of any country.

A. H. SEVIER, of Arkansas.

Mr. Alexander Vattemare well deserves the approbation and admiration of every good citizen of this and of other countries in prosecuting his useful and valuable enterprise.

May success and prosperity attend him.

WM. S. FULTON, of Arkansas.

Representative.

The project of M. Vattemare has my cordial approbation.

EDWARD CROSS,

Hempstead City, Arkansas.

STATE OF MICHIGAN.

Senators.

I the more cordially concur in the approbation expressed of the enterprise of Mr. Vattemare, because it proceeds from a citizen of France, distinguished alike for her early attachment to America; for her general philanthropy and devotion to human liberty, and for the genius, the science, the courage, and enthusiasm, which have shed a blaze of glory on her national character.

JOHN NORVELL, of Michigan.

The plan of M. Vattemare, commending itself, as it does, to the lovers of science and the promoters of mental improvement throughout the civilized world, has my ardent wishes for its success.

A. S. PORTER, of Michigan.

Representative.

Through your exertions may the sun of science grow brighter and brighter, in its onward pathway, until, at no distant day, it shall culminate in one fixed blaze of intellectual light and glory.

ISAAC E. CRARY.

TERRITORY OF FLORIDA.

C. Downing, delegate from Florida.

TERRITORY OF IOWA.

W. W. Chapman, Burlington, Iowa.

TERRITORY OF WISCONSIN.

J. D. Doty, of Astor, Wisconsin.

From the President and Cabinet.

Concurring in the view so generally entertained of the benefits which would accrue to science and literature, from a successful execution of Mr. Alexandre Vattemare's plan of international exchanges of the productions of the arts, science and industry, the undersigned take pleasure in giving this testimonial of their approbation to Mr. Vattemare's exertions—of their wish that they may be crowned with entire success, and of their disposition to contribute, by all means in their power, to the attainment of that object.

M. VAN BUREN.

JOHN FORSYTH.

LEVI WOODBURY; adding

an earnest hope that immediate steps may be taken to accomplish the end desired.

J. R. POINSETT.

J. K. PAULDING.

JOHN M. NILES.

H. D. GILPIN.

Desirous, before my leaving Paris, in case it should be among the designs of Divine Providence that I shall see my beloved country no more, to deposit my American documents in a place becoming their worth and importance, I could not, I think, have chosen a better one than the bosom of the French nation, represented by the Chamber of Deputies. The following is the answer I received from the honorable questors in relation to my proposal:

“SIR: We have received your letter, dated February 3d last, in which you propose to us to accept the deposit of the American official documents relative to the foundation of the exchanges you have so successfully established between several States of the American Union and France.

“These documents evince the enthusiasm with which numerous populations in another quarter of the globe have welcomed the noble and generous idea which brought you among them, and which induced them to give additional proofs of their friendly feelings toward France, by the initiative they took in the creation of this new intercourse. Such documents, sir, ought indeed to be considered as a precious portion of the inheritance you will leave to your children.

We accept, *in the name of the Chamber*, the deposit you are desirous to intrust to us, and which we will put at your disposal, when, after having given to your enterprise all the extension and consistency of which it is susceptible, you will return to your native home to enjoy, for a long series of years, the esteem and gratitude of your fellow-citizens.

We beg of you, sir, to accept the assurance of our feelings of esteem and high consideration.

The Questors of the Chamber of Deputies of France,

CHARLES CLEMENT,

E. DE L'ESPEE.

ORDINANCE

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ST. LOUIS

In relation to the improvement of the harbor of St. Louis

FEBRUARY 10, 1848.

Enacted by the Council of the City of St. Louis, and ordered to be printed.

AN ORDINANCE providing for the improvement of the harbor of St. Louis.

It is ordained by the city council of the city of St. Louis as follows:

Section 1. That the mayor be, and he is hereby, empowered and directed to raise the bonds of the city of St. Louis to the amount of seventy-five thousand dollars, being the balance of the sum authorized to be borrowed for the improvement of the harbor of St. Louis, by an act of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, approved March twenty-six, one thousand and four hundred and sixty-five: provided the United States government shall give assurance by the first of March next, that it will apply the balance of the appropriation made by Congress for the improvement of the harbor of St. Louis in the manner set forth in the second section of this ordinance; and provided, also, that the St. Clair Ferry Company shall incur no subsequent obligation, by the first of March next, that it will furnish the sum of fifteen thousand dollars for the improvement of said harbor in the manner set forth in the third section of this ordinance.

Section 2. The mayor is hereby directed to forward, within sixty days, an authenticated copy of this ordinance to the proper department of the United States government, with a request on the part of this city to cause the balance of the appropriation made by Congress for the improvement of the harbor of St. Louis to be applied, as soon as practicable after the first of March next, towards the construction of a stone dam across the narrow channel of the Mississippi river, opposite St. Louis, at the head of River street; at such location and in such direction as they be deemed best, and with this assurance, on the part of the city, that the proceeds from the sale of the bonds authorized to be issued by the corporation of this ordinance together with any amount to be furnished by the St. Clair Ferry Company, shall be applied for the improvement of the harbor of St. Louis, in the manner set forth by the fourth and fifth sections of this ordinance.

Section 3. The mayor is hereby directed to execute and deliver, within sixty days, an authenticated copy of this ordinance to the St. Clair Ferry Company, with the assurance on the part of the city, that the proceeds from the sale of the bonds authorized to be issued by the corporation of this ordinance together with any amount to be furnished by the St. Clair Ferry Company, shall be applied for the improvement of the harbor of St. Louis, in the manner set forth by the fourth and fifth sections of this ordinance.

